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Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

51
ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 EUR-10 IO-03 NSC-10

NSCE-00 AF-04 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01

CU-03 DRC-01 /064 W
---------- 110788
P R 011205Z OCT 73
FM USINT CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3854
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T CAIRO 2894

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EG LY
SUBJECT: QADHAAFI IN EGYPT, SEPTEMBER 28-29, 1973

1. USINT SOURCE WITH CLOSE CONTACTS IN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAS GIVEN US BACKGROUND ON QADHAAFI'S VISIT TO EGYPT SEPTEMBER 28-29. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, SADAT HAD DISPATCHED ASHRAF MARWAN TO TRIPOLI ON SEPTEMBER 26 TO INFORM QADHAAFI THAT LATTER MUST STOP INTERFERING IN EGYPTIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. SPECIFICALLY, MARWAN WAS INSTRUCTED TO TELL QADHAAFI THAT STUDENTS FROM EIN SHAMS AND ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITIES HAD INFORMED SADAT OF LIBYAN ATTEMPTS TO FOMENT ANTI-REGIME FEELING BY USE OF LIBYAN AGENTS PROVACATEURS IN EGYPTIAN UNIVERSITIES, AND WITH OFFERS OF MONEY. MARWAN WAS ALSO TO TELL QADHAAFI THAT HE SHOULD NOT ACCEPT INVITATION TO SPEAK AT NASSERITE RALLY OF LIBYAN STUDENTS SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN ALEXANDRIA ON SEPTEMBER 29. IF HE DID, GOE WOULD BE FORCED TO CANCEL MEETING. MARWAN
SECRET
SECRET

RECEIVED NO REPLY AND RETURNED TO CAIRO EMPTY-HANDED.

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2. IN HIS USUAL MANNER, QADHAAFI ARRIVED UNANNOUNCED ON SEPTEMBER 28. HE PROCEEDED TO NASSER'S TOMB AND THEN TO THE HOUSE OF NASSER'S FAMILY TO PAY RESPECTS. HE DID NOT SEE SADAT, AND LEFT FOR TRIPOLI THE FOLLOWING DAY. SADAT DELIBERATELY NOTED IN HIS SPEECH OF SEPTEMBER 28 THAT QADHAAFI WAS "INDISPOSED" FOLLOWING HIS ARRIVAL IN ORDER TO SAVE LIBYAN LEADER EMBARRASSMENT.

3. SOURCE STATES THAT SADAT IS NOT OF A MIND TO ACCOMMODATE QADHAAFI MUCH FURTHER. SADAT REPORTEDLY FEELS THAT QADHAAFI'S UTILITY IS COMING TO AN END; THAT HIS PROPENSITY FOR CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR GOE HAS NOT BEEN REDUCED; AND THAT, AS IT BECOMES CLEAR TO ALL THAT LIBYAN/EGYPTIAN UNION WILL NOT WORK, THE NEED TO MAINTAIN A PRETENSE TO THE CONTRARY BECOMES MORE BURDENSOME. ACCORDING TO SOURCE'S INFORMANT, SADAT IS THINKING ALONG LINES OF ANNOUNCING HALT OF UNITY EXPERIMENT WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS, ALTHOUGH HE MAY BE PERSUADED BY POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES NOT TO DO THIS.

4. COMMENT; THE ABOVE STORY GENERALLY HANGS TOGETHER. GOE HANDLING OF MEETING OF LIBYAN STUDENTS IN ALEXANDRIA (INCLUDING PUBLICATION OF SADAT'S TELEGRAM DECLINING INVITATION FOR HIM TO SPEAK), ABSENCE OF QADHAAFI FROM CELEBRATIONS SEPTEMBER 28, POSTPONEMENT BY ONE DAY OF MEETING OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30, AND FACT THAT BOTH HE AND SADAT DID NOT APPEAR AT ASSEMBLY'S FIRST OPENING, ALL SUGGEST THAT EGYPTIANS WERE HAVING MORE THAN USUAL PROBLEMS OF HANDLING QADHAAFI'S PRESENCE IN EGYPT. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT SADAT'S PATIENCE WITH QADHAAFI IS WEARING THIN, ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY TO THE POINT WHERE HE WOULD MAKE DRAMATIC ANNOUNCEMENT EFFECTIVELY DISMISSING IDEA OF UNITY.
SMITH

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR EG LY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CAIRO02894
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731057/aaaabqae.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04-Oct-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <05-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QADHAAFI IN EGYPT, SEPTEMBER 28-29, 1973
TAGS: n/a
To: SECSTATE WASHDC AMMAN BEIRUT JIDDA MOSCOW TEL AVIV TRIPOLI USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
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